



Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

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Support HJ 1, SJ 29, HB 5004, SB 1057, SB 1064
Support with Modifications HB 6693
Oppose SB 713

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal, Vice Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Morrin Bello, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco, and Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee

From: Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

On behalf of the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of these voting rights bills implementing early voting (HB 5004, SB 1057, SB 1064) and allowing no-excuse absentee ballots (HJ 1, SJ 29, HB 6693). The Roundtable seeks to build a worker-oriented environmental movement committed to securing a fair and just transition that protects the environment and the livelihoods of workers and their communities. Protecting voting rights is essential to promoting community self-determination, a key principle of environmental justice.

Every citizen should be able to exercise their right to vote, but this is often not the case. Inflexible work schedules, lack of access to transportation, childcare duties, business or personal travel, medical conditions, and disabilities can all prevent voters from showing up to the polls on election day. Our democracy works better when all voters' voices are heard. We should make it as accessible as possible for every eligible voter to cast their ballot. Both no-excuse absentee ballots and early in-person voting help make elections accessible to all eligible voters in the state.

The Roundtable opposes provisions in HB 6693 and SB 713 that would require the public disclosure of personal information provided on absentee ballot applications. We see no reason or benefit to this public disclosure of personal details and are concerned it will prevent voters with privacy concerns from applying for absentee ballots even if they are unable to access a polling place.

Democracy only works when citizens can participate. Strong voting rights are essential for a healthy democracy. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director
Allison Pilcher, Policy Director
Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
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